



January 28, 2011

To: Executive Board

Subject: **Proposed 2011 State and Local Legislative Program**

Recommendation

Adopt the proposed 2011 State and Local Legislative Program as outlined in the Attachment.

Background

The 2011 State and Local Legislative Program will help guide staff recommendations and actions on state and local proposals during the upcoming year.

Each year staff prepares a legislative program for adoption by the Foothill Transit Executive Board. The program will serve as a guide for pursuing Foothill Transit's legislative proposals and strategies and is meant to be flexible in order to give staff the leeway to pursue unanticipated legislative opportunities that may present themselves during the course of the year, such as advocating for legislation that is consistent with the attached program.

On a monthly basis, staff will continue to prepare a state legislative update that will ask the Board to approve staff recommendations on individual bills and policies that affect Foothill Transit's interests. The same will be done for federal and local issues as the need arises.

Our efforts will continue to be supported by Tim Egan of the firm Capital Representation Group, Inc. In 2008, the Foothill Transit Board awarded a contract to Capital Representation Group, Inc. to act as our advocate in Sacramento when Board members or staff cannot be there to directly represent Foothill Transit. Last year, Foothill Transit exercised an additional one year option for Capital Representation Group to continue state advocacy in 2011.

Sincerely,

David Reyno
Director of Government Relations

Doran J. Barnes
Executive Director

Attachment

2011 State Legislative Program

Goal #1:

Ensure that state policy decisions are beneficial to Foothill Transit's operations or funding.

Proposed Action Items:

1. **Monthly updates:** Continue to provide monthly updates to the Executive Board on significant legislation and initiatives.
2. **State Advocacy:** Advocate to obtain reasonable and fair electric power rates for the Ecoliner all electric powered bus, the maximum amount of funding under California State Budget, Measure R and support full allocation of 2008's Proposition 1B and 1C, Transit Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance (STA), connection between transit operations funding, AB 32, SB 375 and other climate change policies and full, guaranteed transit funding under 2010's Proposition 22 and 26.
3. **California Transit Association (CTA):** Maintain active participation of staff in CTA activities, including Executive and Legislative committees. Work to make sure CTA's positions reflect those of Foothill Transit's.
4. **Local Legislative Committees:** Continue to attend various local legislative committee meetings (i.e., San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership, Chambers of Commerce, San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network, San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, etc.).
5. **Support Legislation:** In general, Foothill Transit will support state legislation or rules that:
 - Enhance Foothill Transit's ability to deliver effective and efficient transportation services,
 - Increase transit funding,
 - Increase state funding for welfare-to-work transportation programs,
 - Encourage transit-oriented development in California.
 - Provide relief from excessive taxes.
6. **Oppose Legislation:** In general, Foothill Transit will oppose state legislation or rules that:
 - Inhibit Foothill Transit's ability to deliver effective and efficient transportation services,
 - Divert current funding or ignore the need for increased transit funding.

Goal #2:

Establish a strong presence with Foothill Transit's state legislative delegation and their staff.

Proposed Action Items:

1. The Director of Government Relations will contact local representatives and/or key staff on a regular basis to continue positive relations and discuss issues of concern to Foothill Transit both locally and in Sacramento. Staff will continue to extend invitations to elected officials to familiarize them with Foothill Transit capital projects and tour our facilities.
2. Local representatives and their staff will continue to receive Foothill Transit publications as well as invitations to Foothill Transit events.
3. Foothill Transit representatives will participate in CTA Lobby Day and attend the CTA Spring Legislative and Annual Conferences, League of Cities Legislative Action Days and California Chamber of Commerce Business Legislative Summit to promote relations with elected officials at the leadership and transportation committee levels.
4. Staff will continue to attend legislative functions in the Los Angeles area, such as the various Legislative Power Lunches, San Gabriel Valley Public Affairs Network luncheons, San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership Legislative Reception and similar events.

2011 Local Legislative Program

Goal #1:

Ensure that policy decisions made by regional planning and programming entities are beneficial to Foothill Transit.

Proposed Action Items:

1. Formally support or oppose Metro, SGVCOG and SCAG positions on issues that affect Foothill Transit and the other municipal operators. Work through the Bus Operations Subcommittee and LACMOA to craft solutions to potential areas of concern.
2. Provide position briefings as needed to Metro board members, SGVCOG members, and SCAG personnel on issues that may affect operations, planning and funding.

Goal #2:

Maintain strong relationships with elected officials and staff in member cities as well as with staff and General Managers of other municipal operators.

Proposed Action Items:

1. Regularly participate in meetings of the SGVCOG, Metro, SCAG, the League of California Cities-LA County Division, Los Angeles County General Managers and Los Angeles County Municipal Operators Association (LACMOA).
2. Monitor service area city council meetings and local newspapers to ensure that fixed route transportation needs are being met.
3. Treat local officials as “constituents” and respond in a timely manner to their concerns about Foothill Transit’s policies and service.
4. Continue holding JPA Cluster Breakfasts quarterly or as needed.
5. Ensure that Foothill Transit publications are distributed to the offices of all local officials and city managers in order to provide updates on current events at Foothill Transit.
6. Distribute Executive Director’s weekly report to all Governing Board members and other interested individuals via e-mail and/or fax.